

M E R C A T O R :

O R,

Commerce Retrieved,

B E I N G

CONSIDERATIONS on the State of the *British* Trade, &c.

From Saturday, January 30. to Tuesday, February 2. 1713.

The Opposers of the Treaty of Commerce act on a Political-Party Account, and not as in a Case of Trade. This the Reason of their asserting so many abominable Falshoods and Absurdities, and with such Confidence defending them.

A particular Account of the Falshoods they assert.

A farther Account of some of them, which have been detected from the Custom-house Books.

They make their printed Discourses meer Scandal-Papers instead of calm Debates to Reason on the Subject of Trade.

IT is too true, what was offered to the *MERCATOR*, in a Letter printed in the last Paper, (viz.) That the Opposers of the Treaty of Commerce have their Eyes not upon the Merits of the Trade, but upon the Projects of Parties. The *MERCATOR* has industriously avoided concerning this Paper with any thing relating to the Disputes of Parties; Trade is of no Party, and ought to be promoted by all Parties. But if the Notion mentioned in that Letter be true, (viz.) No Trade! No Peace! No Peace! No New Ministry! then the same Climax will Chime backward; if you will ruine the Ministry, you must destroy the Peace; if you will destroy the Peace, you must overthrow the Treaty of Commerce; for, as the Inspector-General observes very well in his Report, No Peace can be lasting, where a Friendly Commerce between the Nations is not Established.

If this then be the Case, as is too sure, no wonder, the Treaty of Commerce has so many Enemies, and no wonder, they publish so many Absurdities, and run upon such Contradictions, that the experience of every Merchant must rise up against them: Let us recapitulate a few of the monstrous things, which they have put upon the World, and let Posterity judge of the Weight of them, or the Weight, that any Man ought to put upon them, after such things as these, or who ought to Credit any thing such People can say. Take a few of these things for a Specimen, as follows:

That French Wines Cost 25 l. per Ton, one with another in France, the first Penny.

That they will Cost so hereafter. Vide the *Guardian*.

That we Import 6 or 700000 l. a Year in Linen from France. Ibid.

That taking off the Duties from our Goods in France will not encrease the Sale of them, nor Cheapness cause a Consumption; And yet

That keeping on high Duties here upon French Wine and Brandy, and making them dearer in England, will not lessen the Consumption at all.

That we paid 4 l. per Ton Freight for our Goods from Portugal in time of Peace.

That the French want none of our Woollen Manufactures, and will be so far from Buying Ours, that they are able to supply us with them Cheaper than we can make them.

That the French make as good Broad-Cloth, Perpetuanas, Serges and Bays, and as Cheap as we can.

That if the French King abate but a small Duty of 30 Sols per C. weight upon Bays and Perpets, we can Sell none in Italy, unless we allow a Bounty upon Exportation.

That we lose by the Trade to Spain, take more Goods of them than they take of us, and pay the Spaniards the Ballance in Money.

That the Treaty of Commerce with France interfering with the Treaty of Commerce with Portugal, is a Rupture of the Peace with Portugal, and the Portuguese are allow'd to Prohibit all our Manufactures.

That we are not, by the Treaty of Commerce, to enjoy the Tariff of 1664 for our Woollen Manufactures in France.

That the Report from the Custom house given in to the House of Lords, and Signed by all the Commissioners Hands, against their horrible forged SCHEME, is wrong.

These are a few of the Assertions, which the Opposers of the Treaty of Commerce have had the Assurance to advance in the World; every one of which have their plain Confutation in the Knowledge and Experience of every Man of Business upon the Exchange, and are duly exposed in the *MERCATORS*.

It was indeed astonishing, to find, that Men, who pretend so High, could stoop so Low, as to espouse such foul and notorious Falshoods, and could put such things upon the World. But when it comes to be discovered, that this Affair of Trade is hooked into the unhappy Party-Broil that is among us, in which the Divisions are come to such a height, and are supported by such continued storms of Forgery and false Rumours, that if a Man stops in his way to take up a Story, he can't carry it cross a Street, but it falls in pieces in his Hand. When this is the Case, we are no more to wonder, that the grossest Absurdities, and most manifest Falshoods in the World are vented with the greatest Air of Assurance imaginable: It is the Iniquity of the Day, 'tis the Sin of our Parties, and the Infection is come to that height, that, as in a general Plague, it cannot be stopp'd till Heaven it self interpose.



Let us but look at the same Mens Conduct now in Publick Matters, which tho' foreign to the *MERCATOR*, is yet so very disturbing to themselves and to the whole Kingdom, that it cannot pass without every ones Notice: How they are trying Experiments upon the Nation, to see, if they can be put into any fatal Disorder upon a hasty Fright? Trying the Temper of the People, to see, which way they will point upon the real Emergency, when it happens? Trying how ready the Mob will be to join with them, when they shall push their imaginary Apprehensions of the Enemy up to a more effectual highth? How have they kill'd the *QUEEN*, and brought over the *Pretender* above Twenty times in less than a Month past? How many dreadful Diseases have they loaded the *QUEEN* with, which, blessed be God, Her Majesty never felt? How many Chirurgical Operations have they made Her Majesty undergo, when, God be praised, the *QUEEN* has had no other pain, than what has proceeded from Her Compassion and Concern at the Distractions of Her Subjects?

In like manner how have they Tortur'd themselves, for God knows it gives no pain to any Body else, about the *Pretender's* coming over? They have printed an innumerable Number of times, That the *Pretender* was not yet gone from Lorrain. Now it seems they have lost him, he is gone from *Bar-le-Duc*, and has not sent them word, whither he is gone, and therefore he is certainly come over hither; and they are ready at the Exchange-Gate to peep into every Hackney-Coach to see for him. They printed many Complaints, that *Dunkirk* was not yet Demolished: Now *Dunkirk* is Demolished, and the French Men of War are come out of the Bassin, that the Port may be ruined and filled up; and presently they are fitted out to Invade us, and they look for 13 Old Men of War to Ruine us all.

Belike, these Men would have had the French King have filled up the Harbour of *Dunkirk* with the Men of War in it; and so they must have been planted there in the Earth like Trees in a Garden, and if it had been so, no doubt we should have been as full of these Fears as before, lest the King of France having 13 Men of War at *Dunkirk*, they should grow into a Fleet, and come over to Invade us with the *Pretender*.

What may we not expect then in Matters of Trade, when such Men as these are our Antagonists, and when such things as these are shamelessly Imposed upon us! When the *MERCATOR* set out, he thought to have had to do with Merchants; Men, who could speak to the Affair of Trade from their Knowledge and Experience, and whose value for Truth would have made them speak it plainly and directly, who, regarding their Reputation, would Deal fairly, and pay the Debt of an Argument, as they did their Bills of Exchange, punctually.

But instead of such Men, the *MERCATOR*, like the Apostle, who fought with Beasts at *Ephesus* (that was with Brutish Men) is fallen into the Hands of a PARTY-RABBLE, who have undertaken to run down the Argument of Trade in the same manner, as they do the Ministry, Neck or Nothing, by Clamour and Falshood.

This the *MERCATOR* is very sorry for, and cannot but complain of; but, as there is no Remedy, must endeavour to go through it, as well and as quietly as may be: Howbeit, he must be excused in exposing the Business and Dishonesty of it upon all Occasions, by which he doubts not, impartial Men will be perswaded and convinc'd; and as to those, who fall in with Noise and Ribaldry, let them go, they merit not the Regard of being spoken to.

WHILE they are boldly saying, we lose by our Trade to Spain, the Custom-house Books stare in their Faces with such Accounts of Goods Exported in one Day, or two, or three Days, as are really astonishing and amazing.

WHILE they tell us, the French will work us out of the Trade to Italy, bringing in an Edict of ten Years

old from France to shew us, that the French will undersell us in Bays and Perpets in Italy, so that we shall never sell any more there; while they are doing this, I say, our Merchants are every Day shipping vast Quantities of Bays and Perpetuana's to that very Part (Italy) where their Edict makers have been ten Years a supplanting us.

WHILE they tell us, the French need none of our Manufactures, and would not have them, although the Duties upon them in France were reduced to the Tariff of 1664; the Custom-house Books tell us every Day, that the French stand so much in need of our Manufactures, that they cannot refrain Buying them, and large Quantities are Exported thither, even now, while the Duties on them in France are at 60 or 70 per Cent. which sure they would not do, if their own Woollen Manufactures were within any Comparison so good as ours, or that they could make a sufficient Quantity for their own Demand.

With what Satisfaction must an unprejudiced Man see the Difference between these Men and us! They speaking by positive Assertion, without Evidence; the *MERCATOR* giving the Demonstrations of the daily Entries of the Custom-house against them.

But Party-Witchcraft has possess'd them, and they are under the Power of the same Evil-Spirit, which has Deluded the Nation at this time in other Things; and this is the Reason of all these Outrages: Our Trade is embarrass'd with our Politicks! As they rail in one, they rail in the other; their Printed Answers turn Scandal-Papers, rather than Papers of Argument; and we rail at Persons, instead of arguing upon the Meaning of Things; and when it shall be otherwise, God only knows.

The *MERCATOR* concludes this with giving them a little Scetch of the Exports to Spain for another single Day, that People may judge a little of the Assurance these Men speak with, and on what weak Foundation it is, they build all they say: It may be added, that this is but an ordinary Days Entry neither, and many times our Exports of Woollen Goods to Spain are much greater.

From the Custom-House.

Exported of Woollen Manufactures to Spain
and the Streights in One Day, Jan. 26.



- * 30 Yorkshire Cloths
- * 50 Short Cloths
- 50 Spanish Cloths
- * 250 Stuffs and Says
- * 240 Perpets
- 80 Perpets
- 340 Stuffs
- 118 Double Bays
- 53 Dozen Hose

Behold the Trade to Spain, which we lose Money by, and the Trade to Italy, which was to buy their Bays and Perpets from France!

ADVERTISEMENT.

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